Construction of Khurda-Bolangir rail line

341. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to construct Khurda-Bolangir rail line in Orissa on Priority, with a view to connect Western districts with coastal districts of Orissa;

(b) if so, the progress of that project as on date; and

(c) the funds allocation made for that project, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Final location survey for the line is in progress. Land acquisition plans have been submitted to the State Government for a length of 22 km. covering Puri, Khurda and Nayagarh districts and the land acquisition is in progress. An amount of Rs. 3.66 crore has been deposited with the State Govt. for this purpose. A tender for earthwork and bridges on 2.5 km. length of the line from Khurda Road end, which falls in the Railway land, has been awarded. The work will be progressed as per availability of resources, after land has been acquired.

(c) Total funds allocated upto 1999-2000 were Rs. 8.18 crore and budget outlay for 2000-2001 is Rs. 14.50 crore.

Damage to Railways due to cyclone, floods and earthquake

342. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of damage to the Railways in Orissa super cyclone, floods in West Bengal and now earthquake in Gujarat, separately;

(b) whether any amount has been contributed by the Railways for relief to these disaster affected people, separately, apart from making good for these damage; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The total estimated amount/cost of repairs/re-building of damaged property is Rs. 145.00 crore. State-wise separate position are as under:

Gujarat	= 75.00 Crore
Orissa	= 30.00 Crore
West Bengal	= 40.00 Crore

(b) and (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

Bangalore-Patna direct train service

343. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Bangalore is an I.T. Nerve Centre and also Educational Centre in the country; and

(b) if so, whether Government would take steps to introduce direct train service between Bangalore and Patna?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Introduction of a direct train from Bangalore to Patna has been examined but not found feasible due to operational and resource constraints.